

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 07142 110009Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00  
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01  
PA-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 /054 W  
-----121025Z 126031 /10

R 110000Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2041  
INFO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO  
ALL OTHER USCONS MEXICO BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 07142

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, SOCI, MX  
SUBJECT: SONORA LAND TENURE PROBLEM

REF: A) MEXICO 0766, B) MEXICO 7122

1. EXCELSIOR MAY 9 REPORTS THAT SONORA FARMERS HAVE DECIDED TO ACCEPT GOM OFFER TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR 17,000 OF 37,000 HECTARES WHICH WERE OCCUPIED BY CAMPESINOS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NOVEMBER DECREE ISSUED BY FORMER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. ACCORDING TO JAIME MIRANDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SMALL FARMERS FEDERATION, SOME FARMERS WERE ORIGINALLY OPPOSED TO ACCEPTING COMPENSATION BUT FINALLY AGREED WHEN THEY BECAME CONVINCED THAT A LEGAL FIGHT THROUGH THE COURTS WOULD LAST TOO LONG. MIRANDA SAID THAT THE GOM HAS OFFERED TO PAY 27,000 PESOS PER HECTARE FOR THE 17,000 AFFECTED HECTARES. THE FARMERS, HOWEVER, CONSIDER 40,000 PESOS PER HECTARE A REASONABLE PRICE BASED ON THE LAND'S COMMERCIAL VALUE. THEY HOPE TO MEET PERSONALLY WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. AS FOR THE REMAINING  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 07142 110009Z POSS DUPE

20,000 HECTARES, MIRANDA SAID THAT THE FARMERS HAD DECIDED TO DONATE THESE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: WHILE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE MORE BARGAINING OVER THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOM AND THE AFFECTED SONORA LANDOWNERS WILL REACH A PEACEFUL, OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT OF THIS EMOTIONAL AND POLITICALLY

SENSITIVE LAND-TENURE DISPUTE WHICH FLARED UP IN THE WANING DAYS OF THE ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. RESOLUTION OF THE SONORA DISPUTE ON TERMS SATISFACTORY TO BOTH THE GOM AND THE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS SHOULD HELP RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND PROMOTE GREATER INVESTMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH SUFFERED A DECLINE IN 1976 DUE IN PART TO POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES RELATED TO ECHEVERRIA'S RADICAL RHETORIC AND LAND-REFORM POLICIES.

3. SINCE TAKING OFFICE, LOPEZ PORTILLO HAS SOUGHT TO DAMPEN POLITICAL AGITATION AND LAND INVASIONS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. TO THIS END, HE HAS CLEANED HOUSE IN THE AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARIAT (SRA), ENGINEERED THE APPOINTMENT OF MORE-MODERATE LEADERS IN THE PRI-CONTROLLED CAMPESINO CONFEDERATION, AND ENCOURAGED OFFICIAL STATEMENTS DESIGNED TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND STIMULATE GREATER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

4. IN THE SONORA DISPUTE, THE PRESIDENT FOUND IT POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO REPUDIATE HIS PREDECESSOR'S POLICIES WITHOUT ALSO UNDERMINING HIS PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY. THROUGH PATIENT NEGOTIATION, HOWEVER, HE HAS SOUGHT TO PROMOTE A REASONABLE SOLUTION WHICH ADVANCES HIS BASIC OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING GREATER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR. WHILE MANY OTHER FACTORS BEYOND THE POLITICS OF AGRARIAN REFORM ARE NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SONORA LAND-TENURE DISPUTE WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 07142 110009Z POSS DUPE

A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD. THOMPSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, LAND NATIONALIZATION, LAND REFORMS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, LAND TENURE, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MEXICO07142  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770167-0544  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770571/aaaacisv.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** b2bbba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MEXICO 766, 77 MEXICO 7122  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2570593  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SONORA LAND TENURE PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** EAGR, SOCI, PINT, PGOV, MX  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b2bbba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009